Electrification of railway line

1180. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the percentage of length of rail lines in the State which is electrified;

(c) the length of rail lines proposed to be electrified during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the amount allocated for the purpose;

(d) the length of rail lines electrified, so far, during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for adherence to the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As on 31.03.2004, the total length of rail lines in Andhra Pradesh is 5196 route kilometres, out of which 40.38% is electrified.

(c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, a target of 1800 route kilometres for electrification has been fixed on Indian Railways and a provision of Rs. 1500 crore has been envisaged.

(d) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, 1319 route kilometres have been electrified till 31.10.2005.

(e) The progress of the work is monitored regularly for timely completion of the Projects.

Office of Chief Engineer Construction at Silchar

1181. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no fullfledged office of Additional Chief Engineer (Construction) at Silchar to organise and manage the work of gauge conversion between Silchar-Lumding Section of North East Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plan to establish fullfledged office at Silchar for this purpose which is most urgent; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no such designation of Addl. Chief Engineer on Railways presently. However, the gauge conversion work of Lumding-Silchar-

Jiribam is organized and managed by 6 Dy. Chief Engineers posted at Lumding, Haflong and Silchar under the administrative control of Chief Engineer at Maligaon.

(c) Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) office is already existing at Silchar for the project.

(d) Does not arise.

Vacancies in Group 'D'

1182. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 20,000 vacancies in Group 'D' in safety category lying vacant in the Railways, till date;

(b) if so, by what time these are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on an average six consequential accidents occur every week including collision, derailment, fire or otherwise; and

(d) if so, what are details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No time frame can be fixed as arising & filling up of vacancies on the Railways is a continuous process. The vacancies keep on arising and getting filled up by various modes of recruitment. However, instructions exist for expeditious filling up of vacancies especially those in safety categories.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Transportation of goods by railway wagons

†1183. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the transportation of goods in terms of weight through the railway wagons is more than the prescribed capacity;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.